Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01028 221425Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /070 W
----------221432 129965 /44
R 221327Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7352
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 1028

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XF, KU, SY, LE, IS
SUBJECT: ARAFAT PRESS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT: THE HARD LONE MAINTAINED

REF: KUWAIT 1001

1. YASIR ARAFAT SPENT FEB 19-20 IN KUWAIT AND MET WITH TOP LEADERS (REFTEL). BEFORE DEPARTING HE GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH ARE BELOW, AS REPORTED IN KUWAIT DAILY AL WATAN OF FEB 21:

A. PLO CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL. ARAFAT SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACTS WITH "THE ZIONIST ENTITY AS A GOVERNMENT" AND THAT THE PLO HAD NOT ASKED "ANY AFRICAN PRESIDENT" TO MEDIATE. HE "DEFIED" THE PRESS TO SHOW THAT SUCH CONTACTS HAD BEEN AMDE AND HE "REPROACHED" THE KUWAITI PRESS FOR USING "CONCOCTED NEWS" AND MAKING "FALSE INTERPRETATIONS" OF PALESTINIAN THINKING INJURIOUS TO THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION. HE ACCUSED WHAT HE CALLED A TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY LOCAL PRESS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01028 221425Z

OF PLAYING ALONG WITH THE "INTERNATIONAL MASS MEDIA." (COMMENT: ARAFAT'S ELLIPTICAL COMMENTS IN THE VEIN SEEMED TO BE CHIDING THE KUWAITI PRESS FOR CARRYING RECENT WIRE SERVICE STORIES SUGGESTING THAT THERE IS SOME "GIVE" IN THE PLO POSITION ON GENEVA OR OTHER ISSUES.)

B. LEBANON. ARAFAT CALLED THE PALESTINIAN EXPERIENCE IN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

LEBANON A "RICH" ONE, NOTED THAT THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT NOW
WITH THOSE IN AUTHORITY IN LEBANON "EXCEPT ON MINOR MATTERS,"
AND SAID THAT HE HAS NO PLANS "ESCALATE THE BATTLE IN THE SOUTH
OF LEBANON" EVEN THOUGH THERE IS AN ISRAELI MOVE UNDERWAY THERE WITH
"ISOLATIONIST COVER".

C. MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. ARAFAT SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE
NO SETTLEMENT WITHOUT A REGIONAL BALANCE OF POWER, AND THAT BY
GROWING CONSTANTLY STRONGER ISRAEL IS PREVENTING A BALANCE FROM BEING
ACHIEVED AND IS, IN FACT, "PREPARING" FOR THE FIFTH WAR." HE SAID
THAT HE HAS NOT ABANDONED THE IDEAL OF A SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC STATE
IN ISRAEL AND REAFFIRMED THAT THE PLO POLICY OF 1965 ("NO TRUSTEESHIP
,
NO CONTAINMENT, AND NO DEPENDENCE.") REMAINS VALID. REGARDING
USG EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT, HE SAID THAT HE HAS "GREAT
HOPE IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE" BUT THAT, WITH REGARD TO SECRETARY
VANCE'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, "I HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH IT"
AND "I AM NOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROGRAM".

D. RELATIONS WITH SYRIA. ARAFAT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE
GOS HAD CLOSED A PALESTINIAN MILITARY SCHOOL IN SYRIA WHEN
PRS. ASAD WAS ABSENT (IN ROMANIA) AND THAT "THIS WILL BE CORRECTED".

E. PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. THE KUWAIT TIMES VERSION
OF THE ARAFAT PRESS CONFERENCE HAD HIM ACCUSING THE USG OF FIRST
PERMITTING A PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON AND THEN CLOSING IT DOWN.
KUWAIT DAILY AL QABAS (FEB 21) CARRIES AN EXCLUSIVE STORY FROM
WASHINGTON WHICH NOTES ARAFAT'S ACCUSATION BUT ASSERTS THAT THE
PLO OFFICE WHICH WAS TO BE OPENED THERE WAS TO BE A BRANCH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

OFFICE OF THE PLO'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK.
MAESTRONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT01028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-0312
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770222/aaaaatdq.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 89f560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KUWAIT 1001
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3266977
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAFAT PRESS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT: THE HARD LONE MAINTAINED
TAGS: PFOR, XF, KU, SY, LE, IS, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASSER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89f560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009